



Minutes Desert Conservation Commission October 5, 2021

**Minutes of the Desert Conservation Commission meeting held on October 5, 2021, 3:30 p.m.,
Meeting held via Cisco WebEx Events**

Members Present:

Shereen Lerner – Chair
Kimberly Gaffney-Loza – Vice Chair
Laura Stewart
Donald Burt
Erika Acorn
Aireona Raschke
Jane Neuheisel
Ricardo Juan Leonard
Brian Farling

Members Absent:

City Staff Present:

Craig Hayton, Staff Liaison - Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation
Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant – Community Services Administration

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Shereen Lerner.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kimberly Gaffney-Loza had edits to the meeting minutes. There was a Motion made by Kimberly Gaffney-Loza to approve the Aug. 3, 2021 meeting minutes with changes.

Seconded: Erika Acorn

Decision: Motion Approved, 8-0

Ayes: Shereen Lerner, Kimberly Gaffney-Loza, Laura Stewart, Donald Burt, Aireona Raschke, Erika Acorn, Ricardo Juan Leonard and Brian Farling

Nays: n/a

Abstain: n/a

Absent: Jane Neuheisel (absent for approval of minutes)

Agenda Item 3 – Annual Report

Craig Hayton presented the draft 2021 Annual Report. Any requested edits will be incorporated and presented at the December 7, 2021 meeting for approval.

Agenda Item 4 – Commission Goals

Craig Hayton provided a summary of the work by the Commission to further develop their goals. Shereen indicated we need to further clarify goal four further.

Desert Conservation Commission Goals:

1. Identify and establish partnerships.
 - Historic Preservation
 - Audubon Bird Society- (What is in the preserve)
 - Service and Rotary Clubs/Organizations (Kiwanis)
 - Tempe Chamber (business community)
 - Tempe Leadership/Tempe Cares
 - ASU (present in preserve)
 - SRP (present in preserve)
 - Sustainability Commission
 - Arizona Valley Forward
 - Churches (help with homelessness)
 - Care 7
 - School and Education Programs
 - Transportation Commission
 - Volunteers – (Site Steward Program, Keep Tempe Beautiful)
 - Recreation community
2. Increase awareness through education.
 - Have Resolution R2021.08 spark ideas
 - Stewardship idea
 - Information in water bill
 - Loma del Rio needs work for education (signage is old and readable)
 - Riparian areas
 - Interruptive programs – Preserve Manager
 - Tempe 11 (suggest different programs)
 - Maps that outlined and described the parameters of the preserve, connections points or links off the maps to other areas
 - Technology - such as the use of cell phones
 - Hike into history
 - Historical and traditional uses of area and honor those uses
 - Data gathered to learn about native plants, species. How we conserve and remove the ones that are not native. Why native plants are so important.
3. Participate in planning and design efforts.
 - Include recreation community
 - Identify preserve users
 - Tribal/indigenous communities
 - Neighborhood associations

- County island community
- Parks police
- Parks maintenance
- Salt River Project – SRP
- Arizona State University – ASU
- Secondary education

The Commission further discussed goal number four: Identify appropriate uses and prioritize needs to include the following:

- Promote use of native plants and removal of invasive species
- Promote native biodiversity and abundance, for example, through quality habitat
- Encourage cultural use and understanding of native plants and wildlife
- Protect, restore and enhance existing assets (cultural, natural, historical, etc.)
- Promote native biodiversity and abundance of wildlife in the preserve (37.05)
- Add, maintain and update inclusive signage
- Comprehensively map preserves, as needed, for internal and external uses.
- Encourage and support appropriate community volunteer activities

Agenda Item 5 – 2022 Meeting Schedule

Craig Hayton proposed meeting dates for 2022. The commission will review the dates and provide feedback at the Dec. 7, 2021 meeting. The proposed dates are:

- Feb 1
- April 5
- June 7
- August 2
- October 11 – needs to be modified due to conflict
- December 6

Agenda Item 6 – 2022 Advisory Commission Chair/Vice Chair

Craig Hayton advised that we need to identify new officers for the 2022 year. Shereen Lerner asked if anyone was interested in an officer role. Erika Acorn said she was interested in pursuing the Vice Chair role. Kimberly Gaffney-Loza said she was interested in the Chair role if no one else is interested. Shereen Lerner asked if anyone else was interested, no response from the group. Shereen said if there were any interest to please reach out to Craig Hayton. The Commission can vote on the Chair/Vice Chair positions at the Dec. 7 meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Operational Items

- Moeur Park ramada project update
- Fall/winter volunteer projects
- Annual budgetary process

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Hayden Mill Update
- 2022 Commission Calendar

- 2021 Annual Report
- 2022 Commission Officers

Agenda Item 9 – Upcoming Public Meetings & Announcements

- Next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Prepared by: Tanya Chavez, Senior Management Assistant, (480) 858-2215

Reviewed by: Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation,
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